



## Around the House/At the Supermarket

Copy and distribute this sheet for students to take home. Since the activity calls for a trip to the supermarket, you may want to give students two weeks to complete this page. The top portion of this page, *Around the House*, asks students to identify items in their kitchen, living room, bedroom, and bathroom that can be recycled. Students should complete the bottom portion of this activity sheet, *At the Supermarket*, with a parent or guardian.

As a class, discuss different ways products are packaged and why packaging is important. (You may wish to bring in examples.) On their next trip to the supermarket, students are asked to compare available packaging for three items. They can identify three different items if they like, but should be encouraged to examine three items that are offered in a variety of forms and packaging choices.

**Possible answers for *Around the House* include:**

- **KITCHEN:** soda cans, food cans, juice boxes, milk cartons, cereal boxes, egg cartons, paper and plastic grocery bags, Styrofoam™ cups and plates, plastic bottles, bleach and detergent bottles, plastic food containers, clean aluminum foil
- **LIVING ROOM:** envelopes, magazines, newspapers, telephone books
- **BEDROOM:** paperback books, computer paper, shoeboxes, dry cleaning bags, clothes, blankets
- **BATHROOM:** aerosol hairspray cans, shampoo bottles, prescription bottles, baby wipe containers

For a complete list of items recyclable in San José, visit [www.sjrecycles.org](http://www.sjrecycles.org).

Use the information gathered on this sheet to create graphs or a bulletin board with illustrations of these products. You may also choose to create a bulletin board with your class explaining and illustrating San José's new recycling program.

**EXTENSION IDEA:** Have students use a paper bag to make a poster educating other children and families in your school and community about items that are recyclable (especially lesser known items like cereal boxes and catalogs).

Encourage students to use facts from the activities or visit [www.sjrecycles.org](http://www.sjrecycles.org) for information on the new recycling system for their poster.



## Additional Ideas & Curriculum Opportunities

- Have students write to city officials in San José and tell them how they are going to do their part to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle either individually or as a class.
- Take a field trip to see how recyclables are processed after they are collected in San José. Contact Weslie Brandon at GreenTeam of San Jose at (408) 283-8500 or Stephanie Ulmer at Norcal Waste Systems at (408) 588-7240 ext. 222.
- Help your school celebrate *America Recycles Day* on November 15! Visit [www.americarecyclesday.org](http://www.americarecyclesday.org) for more details.
- Talk to a recycling expert: Request that a guest speaker from one of the city's waste haulers come to your class to talk about recyclables. Contact GreenTeam at (408) 283-8500 or Norcal Waste Systems at (408) 588-7240 ext. 222.
- Go to Resource Area For Teachers (RAFT) for a recycling workshop on October 12, 2002! Visit [www.raft.net](http://www.raft.net) for more details.
- Recycling is more than bottles and cans. Find out about composting as a recycling method! Call the Home Composting Education Program for Santa Clara County at (408) 918-4640 for more information or a guest presentation.

## R E S O U R C E S

### WEB SITES

- American Forest & Paper Association – [www.afandpa.org](http://www.afandpa.org)
- California Integrated Waste Management Board – [www.ciwmb.ca.gov](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov)
- City of San José Environmental Services – [www.sjrecycles.org](http://www.sjrecycles.org)
- Santa Clara County Integrated Waste Management Department – [www.reducewaste.org](http://www.reducewaste.org)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency – [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

### BOOKS

- Ash, Russell. *The World in One Day*. DK Publishing, Inc., 1997.
- Earthworks Group. *50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth*. Andrews McMeel Publishing, 1990.
- Harms, Valerie. *The National Audubon Society Almanac of the Environment: The Ecology of Everyday Life*. National Audubon Society, Inc., 1994.
- MacEachern, Diane. *Save Our Planet: 750 Everyday Ways You Can Help Clean Up the Earth*. Dell Publishing, 1990.
- Schwartz, Linda. *Earth Books for Kids: Activities to Help Heal the Environment*. The Learning Works, Inc., 1990.
- Wilcox, Charlotte. *Trash!* Lerner Publishing Group, 1988.
- The World Almanac for Kids 2002*. World Almanac Education Group, Inc., 2001.

